

ST ARVANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ST ARVANS COMMUNITY COUNCIL held at THE MEETING ROOMS, ST ARVANS on TUESDAY 14th March 2017 at 7.15 pm

Present: Chairman: A. Bolton (AB)
Councillors: R. Edwards (RE)
B. Howells (BHs)
S. Banfield (SB)
B. Howell (BH)
In Attendance: Councillor Ann Webb (AW)
H. McMahon (Clerk)

2517 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

V. Kennedy. M. Davies.

2518 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE

Report from the Community Police received by email on St Arvans and Howick incidents for the period 14th February – 14th March 2017.

- a) i. Crimes: Report of a break in to one of the bar areas at Chepstow Racecourse. When cctv was viewed by staff a further 4 incidents of break ins were discovered over the weekend. Bottles of spirits were taken on each occasion.
ii. Star Inn broken into and cash register later found in a hedge with the cash missing.
- b) ASB: There were none.
- c) i. Other matters of note: Regarding the issue with the speed statistics as was mentioned in the last meeting, the police can only report on what has been reported to them.
- d) i. Go-safe has not been to the village for the last 2 months due to the apparent anomaly of the 30 mile notice being on the village sign. CO A. Jones to investigate and advise the council on the reasoning and outcome.

2519 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none.

2520 TO APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14th February 2017

These were approved. Proposed by Councillor BH and seconded by Councillor BHs and all present agreed.

2521 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 14th February 2017 (for information only)

Planning Matters: Ref 2494 Update on projector to show plans directly from a laptop. BH researched the options and stated it would cost approx. £890 for the software. The council agreed the expenditure is too expensive as the plans are available on line.

2522 PLANNING MATTERS

a) Applications and Notifications considered by Planning Group since the last meeting

DC/2017/00153 3 The Row, NP16 6EP – Side extension to existing domestic outbuilding to accommodate installation of domestic wood pellet boiler for provision of heating and hot water to house. The Council recommends approval. **Action: Clerk to advise by phone the outcome to the resident as requested.**

b) Planning Applications Decided by MCC Planning Dept since last Council meeting:

There were none.

c) To note receipt of planning applications/permissions received since the preparation of this agenda:

There were none.

2523 REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ANN WEBB

Councillor Webb reported

- a) Glass recycling to be amended. It will need to be separated from plastic and metal waste into a box. It is believed that the change is for health & safety reasons. The change is not imminent.
- b) A466. Work on the rock face is still ongoing but progress is dependent on geo-surveys and measurements.
- c) Brown bag fee is increasing to £18 per bag from March 2017. The Council is raising the fee to balance the cost of handling green waste across the County.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Webb for her report.

2524 MONTHLY ACCOUNTS March 2017

a) To review the current bank balance and approve schedule of accounts

i) HSBC Balance

HSBC, Account Number 70724513 £866.40

HSBC, Account Number 41440942 £8735.63

Monmouthshire Building Society Account £4,084.26

(a) Sub Total £13,686.29

ii) Minus £ p, comprising outstanding cheques paid during January and outstanding debt to MCC

| To whom | Reference to Work Done/Expenses/salary etc. | Cheque Number | Value £ |
|---------|---|---------------|---------|
| MCC | Owing to MCC ref. Clerk's salary and expenses | Paid by MCC | 454.40 |
| | | Total | 454.40 |

The overall true balance of accounts as of February 2017 was £13,231.89

This includes: a) Donation from Memorial Hall for the Tree Pruning of £270. B) Payment of £100 from Garden City Football. c) Payment of £509.99 VAT refund.

b) Invoices/Expenses and Salary Costs presented for Authorisation and Signature of cheques.

| To Whom | Reference to Work Done/Expenses/salary etc. | Cheque Number | Value £ |
|-----------------------|---|------------------|---------|
| i).HM Clerk | Clerks salary 1/3/17 – 30/3/17 | Paid thru MCC | 226.67 |
| ii) Nigel Hoskins | Grounds maintenance | 101108 | 144.00 |
| iii) Merlin Waste | Dog Bin emptying | 101109 | 27.12 |
| v) One Voice Wales | Finance Training – Bernard Howell | 101010 | 35.00 |
| | | Total | £432.79 |

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Councillor BH and seconded by Councillor RE and all present agreed.

It was noted that the cheques for the Meeting rooms should be made payable to the "Meeting Rooms".

It was proposed that The Council set up Internet Banking. **Action: Clerk to contact HSBC for the relevant forms.**

c) Appointment of Internal Auditor.

The Chairman requested that Mike Taylor be contacted to request that he carries out the internal audit of the accounts. Proposed by Councillor RE and seconded by Councillor SB and all present agreed. **Action: Chair to email M. Taylor.**

2525

HIGHWAYS GROUP REPORT

Councillor Howells presented the report.

- a) Racecourse: Awaiting a response from the Racecourse for a meeting;
 - i. for an update on the development of the Dog Show building.
 - ii. to review the traffic arrangements for the Welsh Grand National and complaint(s) arising,
 - iii. to share concerns raised at the visual impact from the A466 of material storage.
 - iv. to query the water running across the pavement outside main entrance area.
 - v. to raise attention to the bright light impacting the view of the road at night.
- b) Speed sign near the Piercefield on the A466. Possible intermittent operation to be monitored.
- a) Picket fences to define entrance to the village. Site meeting with MCC/P.Keeble has been requested.
- b) Speed data. No further information has been received from MCC nor the Speedwatch team. Speedwatch team to be contacted. **Action BHs**
- c) Advertising Posts. A response to a letter to MCC/S.Lane has been received saying that use of the advertising posts were not now expected in the ward of St Arvans at this time.
- d) Pothole. A pothole has appeared in Devauden Road. **Action: Clerk to inform MCC/Gill Hazzard.**

The report was accepted and the chairman thanked Councillor Howells and the group members.

2526

ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION GROUP REPORT from meeting 9/3/17

Councillor Bolton presented the report.

- a) **KGV**
 - i. Picnic Benches: Now in-situ. Action: Clerk to contact N. Hoskins to refurbish the one serviceable wooden picnic bench and dispose of the other.
 - ii. Mole Hills: It was agreed that the problem should be dealt with as raking is not a long term solution. MCC use P&P Pest Control to deal with Moles. (£80 per visit). Action: Clerk to request quote from P&P to deal with the KGV problem. Whilst it is noted also that there is a small number of mole-hills on the football field, these are currently manageable and the situation will be reviewed at a later stage.
 - iii. Councillor AB carried out weekly checks on playground equipment.
- b) **Defibrillator**
 - i. 2nd unit installed at the Piercefield Pub. Councillor contact numbers to be given to the landlord in case of problems with the machine. **Action: BH**
The unit has superficial surface damage. **Action BHs to contact manufacturer for some paint.**
 - ii. Better notices to be affixed to both units to explain that they are not locked. Alarm to be queried at the next training session. **Action: BHs**
 - iii. 3 training courses completed (50 participants) with a 4th session planned for 21st March (30 signed up) John Bennet of the Lions has suggested that more youngsters are involved with the training. Interest to be explored amongst young mums. BHs has tried to contact Oakgrove Stud Farm to ascertain their interest. **Action BHs**
 - iv. The units are now logged into the Ambulance system.
 - v. Lions Club are planning a second hand-over photograph. Volunteer Councillors required. **Action BHs and AB**
- c) **Playing Field**
 - i. No Dogs allowed sign has been fitted to the sports pavilion.
 - ii. Molehills noted in the far corner of the field and removed by BH.
 - iii. Wigloo repairs on-going. **BH**
- d) **Replacement Notice Board, Devauden Road**
To be erected W/C 13th March.
- e) **Best Kept Village and Garden Competitions**
 - i. Rules for the judging of the Gardens and Hanging baskets have been revisited and **were** presented to the Council meeting.

- ii. Long discussion on whether St Arvans could replicate the Mathern set-up by engaging a separate body to organise/manage floral displays in the village beyond the existing fountain and Memorial Hall boxes. The Community Plan Steering Group Chair was approached for ideas, but discussions floundered on the practicalities e.g. watering. It was agreed that there was little time available to bring about any major changes for 2017.
- iii. RE advised the Council that a couple based in Usk offered a watering service for all the floral displays in Usk, Raglan, Monmouth and Chepstow. RE to research if they would be interested in including St Arvans if floral displays were developed as the village is en-route for them. The competition to be advertised in the next edition of the parish magazine and the website.
Action RE to design advert and email to Webmaster.
- iv. The Nursery to be contacted to see if they were interested in involving the children in a project to plant flowers in the front of their property. The lack of youth engagement last year was criticised by the organisers GAVO. **Action: SB**

DONM 6th April @ 9.45am. Venue TBC

The report was accepted and the council thanked Councillor Bolton and the group members.

2527 **CORRESPONDENCE**

To note and consider correspondence received since the previous meeting,
Circulated by letter/email and originating from:

- i. Debbie McCarthy Ref: Homeshare – email sent to councillors.
- ii. Monmouthshire Council CAB ref: attending Meeting on 11th July.
Action: Clerk to confirm invitation and inform the residents.
- iii. Monmouthshire Building Society ref: Interest Rates.
- iv. Hilary Crowe, Thursday Group ref: Date for talk on Scams & Fraud – 30/3 7pm
Action: The Council agreed to underwrite the cost/expenses up to c. £40 not covered by donations. Proposed by BH and seconded by SB and all present agreed.
- v. Meeting Rooms Committee, Janet Anderton ref: Representative from the council on the committee. MD, BH will remain members.
- vi. Teenage Cancer Trust Ref: Donation requested.

2528 **ITEMS FOR PARISH MAGAZINE AND THE WEB SITE:**

- a) Website Advert
- b) Best Kept Village Competition
- c) Fly tipping
- d) CAB to attend meeting 11 July 7-7.30pm

2529 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) Email has been sent to J. Richards thanking him for his service.
- b) Election – 6 existing councillors will be standing for election. 8 councillors to be elected.

2530 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday 11th April at 7.15 pm in the Meeting Rooms.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Signed: Clerk

Date:

Signed: Chairman

Date: